

Date: 2/16/75

Aides Initial: WJB

Caption on Folder or File: (Print)

Bradley University, Indiana (Concerning)

Cabinet 4 Drawer 2

Folder _____ File X (check one)

First Communication Dated 11/25/52

Last Communication Dated 5/28/66

Approximate Pages 12 serials (62 pages)

Derogatory Information: Yes X No _____ (check one)

Describe Category: i.e. investigative, congressional, prominent persons, administrative, information, policy, personnel, information from other agency, (use miscellaneous category as little as possible): Investigative, Prominent Persons

Tickers Only _____ Originals Only _____ Both X

Describe General Content of File or Folder: (use separate page if necessary)

Files opened based on information furnished by Bradley University ^{Melchior} President David Blair Owen was a homosexual and Communists were using this to blackmail (Owen) to place other Communists on the (Bradley University) staff. During interviews information received which linked (Owen) as a homosexual.

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5-28-68

FROM : SAC, SPRINGFIELD (100-

P -

SA - C (Security Matter - Communist)

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

contacted SA [redacted] and furnished the following information:

As Bradley University alumni, they are becoming increasingly concerned over the activities going on at Bradley University and the way the administration seems to be heading. On the basis of an exhaustive survey they have conducted, they have reached the conclusion independently that the above subjects are responsible for hiring "Subversive" liberal minded faculty members who are promoting liberal ideas and supporting the Students for a Democratic Society, recently formed on the Bradley campus.

- ② - Bureau
 2 - Denver
 2 - Omaha
 2 - Salt Lake City
 2 - St. Louis
 11 - Springfield (2 - 100-

- (1 - 105-359)
 (1 - 105-2660)
 (1 - 105-2687)
 (1 - 105-2631)
 (1 - 105-2630)
 (1 - 105-2636)
 (1 - 100-10403)
 (1 - 100-10749)
 (1 - 100-10202)

Copy to [redacted]
 by routing slip for
☐ info ☐ action
 Date [redacted]
 by [redacted]

EW:ras
 (21)

JUN 14 1968

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

REC-106

MAY 31 1968

INT. SEC.

SI 100-

who had been at Bradley for more than 10 years. Since HURD's arrival, the following instructors and professors have been hired at Bradley who have continually espoused the "Newleft" line and have supported, in statements and speeches, the Student for a Democratic Society, which was chartered at Bradley in 5-67. In addition, the majority of these newly hired faculty members have engaged in Anti Viet Nam War demonstrations and have supported students engaging in protest marches directed against the administration on the Vietnam war issues. These faculty members hired by HURD and HEARD include the following:

Dr. RONALD SIMMONS
Economic Department

BRIGITT
Assistant Professor
Speech Department

L. GARY CHAPMAN
Assistant Professor
English Department

Dr. CHARLES E. D. SIMMONS
Associate Professor
History Department

Dr. BRINDEN LINDSILL
Associate Professor
Philosophy Department

WILLIAM E. BELLMONT
Associate Professor
Economics Department

JAMES BALLOE
Instructor
History Department

EDWARD KAY
Instructor
Political Science Department

[REDACTED]

In the past four years, Bradley has shown a 50% increase in the size of the full-time faculty. It was interesting to note that 55% of the current faculty have been appointed since 1963 and most of these appointments have been additions rather than replacements.

All of the above group are extremely active in and have participated in Anti Viet Nam war support and are espousing "Newleft" ideas and are avid supporters of SDS on the Bradley campus. Articles written and published by some of the above faculty members have followed the National SDS line as well as the "Communist" lines on such international issues as the Viet Nam war, "economic freedoms" and moral issues. Speeches made by these professors deal with "man and machine, alienation and existentialism and Viet Nam protests and draft registration alternatives."

[REDACTED]

December 2, 1952

DAVID BLAIR OWEN

BACKGROUND DATA:

David Blair Owen was born at Peoria, Illinois, July 27, 1906, the son of Llewellyn Owen and his wife, the former Florence Blair. His education includes A.B., Bradley University, 1929; graduate work, 1930; graduate work, University of Iowa, 1931; U.I., Stanford University, 1936. From 1936 to 1942 he was director of public relations and member of the English department at Bradley. He served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve on active duty from 1942 to 1946 on the staff of Admiral Nimitz in charge of educational services for the Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas. Since January, 1946, he has been President of Bradley University.

Owen is reported to be the Illinois State Director of the Women League of the U.S.; member of the boards of directors of the Peoria Association of Commerce, FNCA, Peoria Community Chest. He was national president of the Bradley Alumni Association, 1935-1936, and was named as a member of the American Legion and the Peoria Amateur Musical and Peoria Players Clubs. He resides at 225 South Glenwood Avenue, Peoria, Illinois. ("Who's Who in America," 1952-53)

He has also been reported as a member of national, regional and state boards and committees in the field of education. He was recently appointed to the U. S. Section on International Cooperation in Education with Senator J. W. Fulbright (D-Arkansas) and Harry C. Byrd, President, University of Maryland. (Springfield teletype; 11-27-52)

CONTACT WITH THE BUREAU:

The late Special Agent Charles H. Drussel, as a clerk in the Director's Office, reported receipt of a letter in March, 1939, from David B. Owen, publicity director of Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois, requesting assistance in securing photographs in connection with the visit at the Bureau of Doctor Frederick Hamilton, then President of Bradley. Arrangements were made for photographs of Doctor Hamilton, when he was fingerprinted during the course of his tour of the Bureau. They were furnished Mr. Owen by letter dated March 13, 1939, for release to newspapers as he requested. (94-1-5516-4, 5, 6, 7)

RED:fjb:slw:mj

11-27-52

105-90972-4

ENCLOSURE

105-90972-4

?

ALLEGATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY:

9-11-52
[REDACTED] (See [REDACTED]'s Memorandum to [REDACTED] dated 11-23-52, entitled "Bradley University, etc.")

The Springfield Office advised that a rumor of sexual perversion in connection with Doctor Owen was encountered several months ago. At that time a discreet inquiry indicated that the rumor was believed to have been initiated by Gene Melchione, a basketball star at Bradley, who had been involved in the fixed-games scandal, to put pressure on the Bradley staffs to compel cessation of the investigation. At that time Captain George Earl and Lieutenant George Johnson, both FBI National Academy graduates, and Bernard J. Kennedy of the Peoria Police Department, all concurred in that belief. As recently as October 25, 1952, the Police Chief John McAllister expressed the same opinion. At the time of the initial inquiry [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bradley University, was interviewed under pretext and expressed the same opinion. (Springfield teletype 11-27-52 "Bradley University, etc.")

MISCELLANEOUS:

Owen has not been the subject of an investigation by the FBI.

In connection with the case entitled "Unknown subjects: Abloying of George P. McNear, Jr., President, Toledo, Peoria, and Western Railroad, March 10, 1947, Obstruction of Justice, Civil Rights and Domestic Violence," Doctor David P. Owen, President, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, was interviewed on November 5, 1947. Owen stated that before a basketball game at Bradley on the night of March 10, 1947, McNear met him in the armory where the game was played and invited Owen to sit with him. After the half Owen moved from his usual seat to McNear's box and remained with him until two or three minutes after the game was over. He was separated from McNear in the course of their departure; he saw McNear downstairs a few minutes later and did not know when McNear

actually left the army. Owen stated that McNear never mentioned to him his business or his troubles. Owen's name was not indexed elsewhere in the McNear file. It is recalled that this investigation was closed on authority of the Department. (72-397-243 pg. 40)

The Peoria press was reported to have stated this week that Owen was granted a four-months' leave of absence on account of his health. This information was confirmed by Robert Jamieson, Assistant to the President, Bradley University, on November 20, 1952.

It is noted that [redacted] in casual conversation has always indicated a desire to discharge, or fail to renew the contract of, any faculty member whose loyalty was doubted. He protested against the resignation of [redacted] and several years ago he refused to renew the contract of a librarian for loyalty reasons. This is reported by the Springfield Office to have been done under the direction of Doctor Owen.

O. Chapman Caldwell, member of the National Americanism Committee of the American Legion, has frequently commented on the militant attitude of Doctor Owen and his assistant, Jamieson. (Springfield teletype, 11-27-52, entitled "Bradley University, etc.")

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. TOLSON ✓
FROM : E. A. CLEGG
SUBJECT: BRADLEY UNIVERSITY IN ILLINOIS;
DAVID OWEN, President

DATE: 11/25/52

(b)(6)
(b)(7)(C)
[REDACTED] called from the airport and I met him at his office at 2:10 PM by appointment. He advised as follows:

Bradley University, formerly Bradley Polytechnic Institute, located in Bradley, Illinois, of about 1900.

When Dr. Hamilton was restored to his position as President in charge of public relations.

(b)(6)
(b)(7)(C)
Using blackmail and the threat of disclosing Owen's tendencies, the Reds have infiltrated the university faculty until it today is in part suspected of being a portion of an espionage apparatus. Even narcotics violations are prevalent and the Raybott's Bureau has had some of the activity on the campus under their jurisdiction under surveillance. The University Library is the headquarters of the Herch dispensary. Even students are being corrupted. They can buy a "B" average for \$50 or an "A" for \$75.

[REDACTED] suggests that for additional leads, Agents might very discreetly see [REDACTED]

DEC 1 1952
Attachment - Senator indicated they would probably proceed
HTC:HD cc [REDACTED]

COPIES DESTROYED
80 JUL 15 1960

INDEXED - 8 SE 4 1952 - 20072-1

to collect evidence which would permit them to have Owen take an extended leave of absence and then relieve him of his job in order to prevent as much publicity as possible but that the matter is dynamic and is almost ready to explode. He would appreciate the Bureau conducting an investigation within its jurisdiction concerning red infiltration and actual subversiveness and perhaps espionage. The blackmail angle may have involved interstate commerce but he has no information along this line.

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION:

That this matter be referred by the Domestic Intelligence Division to the appropriate field office for investigation and that a summary be made of the Bureau's files concerning Owen [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

✓. (Follow)